



2017 ANNUAL Report

JOINT NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (JONAPWD)

JANUARY 2017-DECEMBER 2017

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT



JONAPWD has continued on its sustained strides in improving on disability matters in Nigeria and ensuring that the voices and interests of Nigerians with disabilities are given appropriate recognition and respect. It is expected that this annual report will throw light on the unique development challenges in disability sector and would provide necessary

pointers for new strategies & approaches to adopt and to address various challenges.

In 2017, good efforts were made to engage with the government in building relationships, improving systems for a speedy enactment and implementation of the Nigeria Disability Bill with its provisions and the Inclusive education policy in target states (Kwara, Akwa-Ibom State and the FCT). Several consultation meetings were held with both state actors and non-state actors, in which positive outcomes have since been identified and have continued to be harvested.

JONAPWD remains unflinching in her poise for the rights protection of PWDs in Nigeria. Though our utmost goal - the enactment and implementation of the Nigeria Disability Bill- is yet to be realised, at JONAPWD we see disability issue as a cross-cutting development issue, hence, viable progress is being made in ensuring that disability issues gain significant national attention across sectors. These include political/electoral inclusion and participation, inclusive education, accessible health services, accessible physical infrastructure, transportation, etc.

Mainstreaming disability in development at all levels is a strategy to promote inclusive, sustainable and equitable development for all. JONAPWD has long taken a leading role in highlighting the urgent need to mainstream disability in policy implementation and programme development. In 2017, there has been some progress in this regard. However, there continues to be a major backlog in terms of including disability in international development frameworks, as well as in their implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The need to coordinate efforts to include disability in development action has been voiced and grown stronger through 2017 and will continue. Multi-stakeholder partnerships have become more important for resource sharing and knowledge dissemination, as well as for building capacity for practical action on the inclusion of disability on the ground and in all program design.

On behalf of over 25 million persons in the Disability Community in Nigeria, using the CRPD & SDGs as our tools, we re-affirm our resolve to advocating for an inclusive and sustainable development at all levels, eradicating poverty and hunger, ensuring access to healthcare, ICT, transportation, infrastructures, and promoting inclusive education while also enhancing gender equality, empowerment and equal opportunities for all within the context of the SDGs framework of “LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND”.

I sincerely hope that collective efforts from JONAPWD and all Stakeholders will not only enable the growth of Sustained disability sector intervention in Nigeria, but also will yield far reaching results.

I thank all the individuals, Members, international Organizations, Government Officials, Corporate & Civil society Organizations, for providing support to JONAPWD in 2017.

Finally, I thank the Board, National, State Executives of JONAPWD and the SACE/USAID Team for all the support the secretariat received in 2017. It is my great desire that 2018 will bring us much closer as we work in partnership with the supply side, building together, a much more sustainable inclusive society for All.

Our collective appreciation!

EKAETE JUDITH UMOH

National President; JONAPWD

Project Summary

1. Advocating for Inclusive Basic Education for Children with Disabilities in Nigeria:

On the inception of this current JONAPWD leadership, JONAPWD applied for and received a 4-year grant of Forty Million Naira (N40, 000,000 only) from the USAID, through its Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement (SACE) programme in Nigeria to conduct advocacy for inclusive basic education in 3 locations: FCT Abuja, Akwa-Ibom and Kwara states respectively. This grant which has been recently reviewed to about fifty -nine million Naira(59,000,000) was also intended to support the rebuilding of JONAPWD'S institutional and management systems; as well as rebrand and reposition the Association as a truly development-oriented disability rights and advocacy organization. The overall goal of the project is to “Improve The Inclusion And Access Of Children With Disabilities To Quality Basic Education In Nigeria Through Effective Stakeholders” Advocacy Engagement For Policy Influencing, Capacity Building And Public Awareness Creation”. Having observed that about 3 million children with disabilities (representing about 90% in line with UNICEF projections) are out of school in Nigeria, JONAPWD aver that children with disabilities lack access to an inclusive school environment, hence, declare that all children, including those with disabilities, have a right to quality education. Thus, this project is designed to address the accountability and transparency gaps in the mainstreaming of inclusive practices in the implementation of Universal Basic Education in Nigeria. JONAPWD therefore committed to engage with all critical stakeholders to ensure that:

1. The National Policy on Education reflects access, inclusion and participation of children with disabilities in all aspects of Education system.
2. Regular school environments are inclusive to accommodate the learning needs of children with disabilities.

3. Children with disabilities have access to quality, functional and effective basic education. 4. All discriminatory practices against Children with disabilities in basic education are completely eliminated

5. Raising awareness, building alliances, partnerships and capacities of critical stakeholders on issues of inclusive basic education

2017 marked the THIRD full year of the 4-year project. Within the year under review, JONAPWD Successfully;

- Produced and distributed IEC materials to critical stakeholders
- Conducted the Media Lunch
- Conducted a One Day Stakeholders Forum
- Engaged stakeholders in Advocacy visits towards Enactment and Implementation of IE policies in Focal States.
- Continued to sustain the work of Advocacy Technical Teams (ATT) in Focal States
- Continued to develop the Capacity of ATTs in FCT, Akwa-Ibom & Kwara States
- Coordinated advocacy Visits to critical stakeholders in FCT , Kwara & Akwa-Ibom State
- Engaged effectively the media i.e. Print, Electronic and Social All of these are in furtherance to increasing support and creating awareness around issues of inclusive education for children with disabilities. JONAPWD also commenced distribution of the INCLUSIVE MATTERS newsletter to critical stakeholders in the FCT. This is symmetrical with our zest to building alliances towards engendering inclusive and accessible schools around project focal states.

Below are some of the activities carried out on the SACE-USAID Project in 2017.

1. Akwa-Ibom ATT Advocacy visits Inspiration FM and Ministry of Education 7th Feb. 2017

Sequel to the support revisit to the Akwa-Ibom ATT held last quarter the Team is better positioned to engaging with her stakeholders towards

addressing non-inclusive and inaccessible schools in the state. One of such engagements is the advocacy visit to the Ministry of Education and Inspiration FM.

Highpoints of the meeting with the General Manager, Mr. Samuel Akpan was his commitment to supporting the inclusive education campaign with a live radio interview. Hence, the team lead and one other member were requested to send in their profile and more information about the intervention in the state, and to be at the studio early for a live program on Sunday 12/2/2017 for a programme airing between 2-3pm. This was another pedestal for public awareness creation and sensitization on issues around inclusive education.



2. FCT IEPDC review meeting 16th February 2017

The Inclusive Education cluster organized a one-day review meeting on the FCT Inclusive Education Policy sequel to the production of a zero-draft copy of the policy. All FCT Education Secretariat Departments representatives were giving hard copies of the draft (same version) for further consultations with their department echelons.

The review meeting was organized to harmonize all inputs/feedbacks from the Zero-Draft FCT Inclusive Education Policy to produce a first zero-draft Inclusive Education Policy for the FCT.



3. Fact-Finding Visits to 3 FCT Special Schools 27th & 28th Feb 2017

As part of efforts to better strengthen the FCT Inclusive Education Policy Framework, the FCT Inclusive Education Policy Drafting Committee members (FCT-IEPDC) paid a courtesy call on some selected Special Needs Schools in the FCT (JSS Jabi, JSS Kuje and a Private Special School in Bwari Area Council) on Tuesday February 27th & 28th 2017. This visit was both timely and germane to the exigency of producing a Policy Framework on Inclusive Education mainstreaming which addresses the challenges around inaccessible and non-inclusive schools in the FCT.

The visit was another pedestal for apposite stakeholder's interaction cum consultations to take a cue into changing trends and contexts of the policy environment. Feedbacks from this visit strengthened the policy contents and contexts for effectual implementation when assented. One focal outcome was the need for the Committee members to also pay a scheduled visit to at least two (2) Government Owned regular school in the FCT.



4. USAID SACE Public Campaign and Media Training on Reporting Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance 10th-13th April 2017

The role of the Media in promoting good governance through routine reports on transparency, accountability and good governance issues towards engendering effectual delivery on set targets cannot be over emphasized. A strong media sector directly supports good governance; promotes voice and accountability; and reinforces other good governance goals. It is within this purview that the USAID SACE Team organized a Public Awareness and Media Campaign for her National partners on the SACE project.

The training created a platform for capacity of partners to be built to be more strategic in carrying out public awareness campaigns for citizen-focused, transparent and accountable governance at national, state and local governance levels.

Highpoints of the training was the development of Cluster specific public awareness and campaign plans.

JONAPWD's participation at the training better strengthened her partnership engagement with the media for a more result based reportage targeted at a specific public for actionable steps on inclusive education requisites in Nigeria. Similarly, JONAPWD's capacity swas

better built to effectually explore array of media tools and strategies for public awareness creation, campaign vis-à-vis monitor and evaluate impact of our public awareness reach.

5. FCT ATT Refresher Training 21st- 22nd April 2017

The Inclusive Basic Education Cluster organized a 2-days refresher training on advocacy strategies and policy engagement, gender and social inclusion, budget analysis and tracking for the FCT advocacy technical team. This is in furtherance to the ongoing engagements with critical stakeholders, experience sharing/challenges on advocacy visits and apposite discussions around the activities of the FCT Inclusive Education Policy Drafting Committee (IEPDC).

The FCT ATT was revitalized to better deliver on set advocacy plans, effectively engage critical stakeholders to meet overall project objectives and especially to conduct detailed budget analysis and tracking.

6. Refresher Training for Advocacy Technical Team in Akwa-Ibom April 2017

Sequel to the ongoing efforts to engender an inclusive education policy framework vis-à-vis mainstreaming selected regular schools towards engendering accessible and inclusive schools for children with disabilities, the inclusive education cluster held a two-day refresher training for the Akwa Ibom ATT on advocacy strategies, policy advocacy engagement, implementation, GESI, mentoring and M&E, Budget analysis & tracking and MAISE implementation on inclusive education. This was to better build the team's capacity for policy engagement with stakeholders in the education sector. Critical stakeholders from the Education Ministry, State UBEB, Secondary Education Board were in attendance amongst others.

Highpoints of the training was the official set up of the 14-man Inclusive Education Policy Drafting Committee (Akwa-Ibom IEPDC). Thus, the Akwa-

Ibom Inclusive Education Policy Drafting Committee (IEPDC) was officially inaugurated; for the first time in the Education history of the State, to develop an Inclusive Education Policy in tandem with the provisions of the Universal Basic Education Act 2004 and the National Policy on Education.

The Committee was inaugurated by the Honourable Commissioner for Education in the State to give apposite legal backing and authorization to the policy development process and was subsequently trained to be able to carry out their tasks

7. Akwa-Ibom IEPDC Training April 2017

The Inclusive Basic Education Cluster organized a 3-day intensive training on Policy drafting, Formulation, Effective Engagement and Policy Implementation for the Akwa-Ibom Inclusive Education Policy Drafting Committee (AKWA-IBOM IEPDC) on Inclusive Basic Education for Children with Disabilities .Highpoints of the training was the capacity building sessions for the IEPDC committee members to better strengthen her capacity towards quality policy drafting, formulation and implementation for policy change to engender inclusive practices, accessible school environments and reducing the number of out of school Children with Disabilities in the state.



SACE Niger/Delta advisor madam Monica, JONAPWD'S President, Chair of Inclusive Education Policy Drafting committee Elder Ikon of the Ministry of Education and IEPDC members during the 3 day training.



JONAPWD's President with the outgoing Chairman of the Inclusive Education Policy drafting committee (Elder Ikon) and the incoming Chairperson Barr. Atthi both of Akwa-Ibom State Ministry of Education

8. One-day review meeting of the FCT Inclusive Education Policy Drafting Committee 13th June, 2017

Sequel to the first Inclusive Education Policy review by FCT IEPDC, a second review meeting was organized to further harmonize the policy content and context in tandem with changing trends in the policy environment.

One focal outcome of the meeting was the development of a second draft Inclusive Education Policy document for the FCT. Similarly, tentative dates for advocacy visits were fixed as follows:

Visit to 3 regular schools to be mainstreamed in the FCT 22nd June, 2017,
Visit to FCT Private Schools Proprietors' Leadership Chairman 15th June, 2017,

Visit to FCT Ag. DAF (who currently acts as the FCT Secretary of Education) 28 June, 2017,

Visit to University of Abuja (Dean of Education Faculty), 29th June, 2017,
Visit FCOE Zuba Provost 29th June, 2017.

The FCT IEPDC developed a proposition paper that was presented during visits to critical stakeholders in the education sector specifically to ensure that "Department of Special and Inclusive Education" is created in both institutions (University of Abuja and Federal College of Education, Zuba) as this will produce the manpower needed for the implementation of the inclusive education policy being drafted.

These continued interventions shall effectually impact the context of the FCT Inclusive Education Policy Framework for effective mainstreaming of schools and reduction of out of school children with disabilities in Nigeria.



9. FCT IEPDC Advocacy Visit to 3 Pilot Schools for MAISE Mainstreaming

As part of efforts to better strengthen the FCT Inclusive Education Policy Framework, the FCT Inclusive Education Policy Drafting Committee members (FCT-IEPDC) paid a courtesy call on some selected pilot Schools in the FCT (JSS Jabi, GSS Garki, Pilot Science Primary School, Wuse Zone 5) on Thursday June 22nd 2017. This visit was both timely and germane to the exigency of producing a Policy Framework on Inclusive Education mainstreaming which addresses the challenges around inaccessible and non-inclusive schools in the FCT.

The visit was another pedestal for apposite stakeholder's interaction cum consultations to take a cue into changing trends and contexts of the policy environment. Feedbacks from the visit better strengthened the policy contents and contexts for effectual implementation when assented. One focal outcome was the sensitization of the School pupils and Management and commitments to admit children with disabilities during the next academic calendar scheduled for September 2017.

10. Advocacy Visit to the Director of Administration and Finance/Ag. FCT Secretary of Education

Sequel to the production of the 2nd draft Inclusive Education Policy for FCT, the IEPDC members paid a scheduled courtesy visit to the Acting Education Secretary for the FCT in a bid to synergizing the policy context of Inclusive Education in the FCT. The Ag. Secretary of Education and

Director Administration and Finance of the Education Secretariat while reaffirming commitments to engendering inclusive and accessible schools in the FCT, affirmed the need for all Top management staff of the Education Secretariat to be part of the meeting, hence, called for a reschedule.



Mr. Ujah, JONAPWD's FCT Chairman and member Advocacy Technical Team presents to the Ag. Secretary of Education/Dir. Administration of Education

11. FCT IEPDC Advocacy Visit to University of Abuja, Gwagwalada and Federal College of Education, Zuba

The visit is another pedestal for apposite stakeholder's interaction cum consultations to take a cue into changing trends and contexts of the policy environment, both in the drafting processes and when assented to and full implementation begins. Feedbacks from this visit will better strengthen the policy contents and contexts for effectual implementation when assented.

One focal outcome of the visit was the sensitization and commitment of the Institutions' management (especially Faculty of Education of University Abuja and that of Federal College of Education Zuba) to making appropriate preparations for establishment of a "Department of Inclusive Education" which will serve as the hub for producing skilful

manpower for effective and comprehensive implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy when it is assented.

12. USAID/SACE Mid Term Project EVALUATION 17th August, 2017

In a bid to validate JONAPWD's project outcomes so far in tandem with the USAID-SACE project requisites, the USAID/SACE DEVTech Evaluation Team visited the JONAPWD office for a midterm review meeting. The meeting which held on the 17th August, 2017, had several notch-points of discussions around project deliverables so far and the way forward.

The Devtech Evaluation team lauded the unflinching efforts of JONAPWD on delivering on set project objectives while they alluded that the effectual outcomes will engender inclusive and accessible schools in Nigeria, hence, number of out-of-school children will be drastically reduced to the minimum.

13. USAID-SACE Partners CEO's Meeting 18th September 2017

In furtherance to achieving the goals of the SACE Project and to check the compliance of partners on the USAID policies, appraise progress and chart a way forward, SACE Partners annual CEOs meeting held to discuss issues around the implementation of the SACE project, its challenges and way forward.

One focal outcome of the CEOs meeting was the clear directional inputs of CEOs to the SACE project espousing on the political economic context of the project circle within the Nigerian governance space.

14. USAID-SACE Sustainability Workshop 5th -7th December 2017

In a bid to build the capacity of USAID_SACE Anchor Partners and Cluster members, it organized a three (3) days sustainability Workshop geared towards

Building partner and cluster awareness on the dimensions of sustainability and introduced a framework for these considerations by:

Supporting partners to develop robust approaches to policy and cluster sustainability

Supporting partners to consider and develop organizational sustainability plans

Introducing partners to the core elements of fund-raising and resource mobilization.

The event also afforded all anchors the opportunity to review their WEWE OCAT score and discuss a plan to address key areas identified for further action.

15. SACE Cluster Leadership training 8th & 12th May 2017

SACE in a bid to strengthening her partners capacity to effectually deliver on set project objectives organized a cluster leadership training focused on assisting anchor-clusters identify their natural leadership style, reflect on their growing edge as leaders , become proficient in matching approaches to situations encountered in working in a cluster, hone their skills in leading from behind and refine their skills in facilitating cluster meetings and asking powerful questions to advance the work of the clusters. Leaders apply their skills in the second half of the workshop particularly in cluster strategy and policy work, to explore issues of sustainability and identify what they can do now to begin transitioning to life beyond the SACE project.

16. Advocacy visit to Akwa-Ibom State Honourable Commissioner, Ministry of Education 20th June, 2017.

As a follow up visit to the Hon. Commissioner for Education in Akwa-Ibom and consequent upon first IEPDC review meeting, IEPDC members paid an advocacy visit to the Hon Commissioner of Education, who was represented by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, Akwa-Ibom State, Dr. Mrs Valerie, to present first draft Akwa-Ibom IE Policy, engage the Ministry on the windows of opportunity to mainstream regular schools in the State and demand for apposite implementation when assented.

The Honourable Commissioner representative in her words affirmed the continued support for the Inclusive Education Policy, from its drafting, reviews, passage and to its subsequent implementation.

The first draft of the Akwa-Ibom Inclusive Education Policy was presented to the Honourable Commissioner for presentation to the State Governor.



AKWA IBOM STATE MULITIOLOGUE TOWARDS ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF THE INCLUSIVE EDUCATION POLICY FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES.

Akwa-Ibom State Multilogue to consider draft policy on Inclusive Education:



Chief of Party of SACE/USAID PROJECT Charles Abani with a handshake with Principal Special School in Akwa-Ibom during the multi-logue, looking on is the Deputy Chief of party Lydia Odeh and JONAPWD's president Ekaete Judith Umoh



JONAPWD State Chairperson Decon. Offiong Bassey making an intervention during the multi-logue, dialogue

2. Other Notable Activities and Stakeholders Engagement that Took place with JONAPWD in 2017

1. CSJ CSO Budget Summit 24th - 25th Jan, 2017

Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) organized a 2-day Civil Society Summit on the Budget (Budgeting against Inequality).

JONAPWD representation was to make apposite contributions to the 2017 budget analysis with a focus on the education sector and build alliance and network with CSOs towards engendering disability inclusion.

2. Radio Nigeria Interview 26th Jan 2017

JONAPWD was invited for a live radio chat to discuss issues around the welfare of persons with disabilities in Nigeria. JONAPWD's representation at the radio interview was another pedestal to create awareness around the zest for inclusive and accessible school environment cum the Nigeria Disability Bill.

There were callers from around the country who also made valid contributions to the going discourse. This is in tandem with our public awareness and sensitization enthusiasm around issues of inclusive basic education.

3. Live Radio Interview in Commemoration of International Day for Social Justice Armed Forces Radio, Abacha Barracks, Abuja

In our bid to strengthen advocacy and better inform the public on strategies towards improving access to quality and Inclusive Basic Education for children with disabilities, JONAPWD National Secretariat was represented on Armed Forces Radio to discuss on the adequate practice of the concept of Social Justice in Nigeria.

The International Social Justice Day is an annual event declared by the United Nations assembly in 2007 to be commemorated globally. And the theme for 2017 was "PREVENTING CONFLICT AND SUSTAINING PEACE THROUGH DECENT WORK."

It was another pedestal to sensitize the public on our zest to engender accessible and inclusive school Environment.

4. Visit to The FCT Coordinator, National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS),
13 Parakou Close, off Missratah Street, Wuse II, Abuja, Nigeria.

JONAPWD President and Secretariat staff paid an advocacy visit to the FCT Coordinator of the National Health Insurance Scheme to advocate and seek collaboration towards mainstreaming PWDs into accessing affordable and accessible health care services.

The coordinator promised to start a pilot programme on the inclusion of PWDs in the NHIS with Karamajiji district, off airport road Abuja, this pilot programme has since started and implementation is ongoing.



*Group photo on
JONAPWD's visit to National Health Insurance Scheme*

5. One day Stakeholders interactive session with Senior Special Adviser to the President on Social investment 1st MARCH 2017

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room facilitated by the Policy Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC) organized a one-day interactive session with the Special Adviser, Social Investment in the Presidency

(Office of the Vice President), Maryam UWAIIS MFR. The specific objectives were to discuss the effectual implementation of the Federal Government's Social Investment Program and the need for CSOs to increase advocacy supports for the Program for the benefit of the Nigerian citizenry.

The session had in attendance over 63 persons from the CSOs/DPOs communities, the media, and foreign partners amongst others. JONAPWD had the opportunity to engage the SSAP Social investment to highlight issues around the need to adequately mainstream persons with disabilities in the program. JONAPWD successfully made a case for Inclusive Education for Children with Disability around accessibility and inclusivity in Schools. In her response, Mrs Uwais made a pledge to develop a Social inclusion policy to better integrate persons with disabilities especially on the Home Grown School Feeding program which targets Children of Basic School age.

6. JONAPWD Board Meeting 20th April 2017

The Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) held her Board meeting in furtherance to promoting the organizational objectives and institutional capacity of JONAPWD towards the protection of Persons with disabilities in Nigeria through varying interventions and policy engagement drives.

This meeting was another platform to reappraise the implementation of the Inclusive education project to be better positioned to delivery on set objectives.

The JONAPWD Board members has continually reassured their supports and interests to promote the rights of the over 25 million PWDs in Nigeria and ensure it continues to receive priority attention of governments at all levels, the private sector, local and international development agencies, the media, mainstream CSOs, professional bodies and other critical stakeholders. With the combined efforts of the 36 state chapters, 6 disability clusters and several organizations of persons with disabilities, the National leadership of JONAPWD has protected voices and interests of

Nigerians with disabilities. Therefore persons with disabilities are given appropriate recognition and respect.



JONAPWD's Board, Executive Council members and staffs with Chief of Party SACE/USAID Project-Charles Abani

7. Meeting with Access Bank to mainstream MAISE for Accessible Schools 15th May, 2017

, One of the proposed outcome in the ongoing inclusive education intervention around 3 focal states is to mainstream 9 pilot regular schools using the MAISE model to engender access in School Environments . JONAPWD engagement with Access Bank was for possible collaborations to achieve this particular outcome. JONAPWD submitted a proposal to Access Bank in this regard, and to follow up, Access Bank Team paid a visit to JONAPWD Project office for further discussions around the proposal submitted. The proposal's objective is to stimulate "Access", Integration and mainstreaming of pilot schools within the three focal states to ensure access for children with disabilities in Nigeria.

This action reopened conversations around modelling regular schools and opened up opportunities to convene a broader meeting as well as make another pitch on the MAISE Proposal.

8. National Orientation Agency (NOA) Town Hall Meeting 16th May 2017

The idea of Town Hall Meeting was conceived as part of efforts by the Ministry of Information and Culture to bridge the communication gap between the Government and the citizenry to keep them better informed of the policies and programmes of Federal Government. One of such town hall meetings was organized for focal Ministries to report back to the citizenry in order to get citizens perspectives on government policy programmes and interventions. In attendance were the Honourable Ministers of Finance, Agriculture, Water Resources, Trade & Investment, Power, Works & Housing, Defense, Budget & National Planning and Information. The town hall meeting was another pedestal for advocacy around accessible and inclusive spaces for persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

In his remarks the Hon. Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Babatunde Fashola , while responding to questions raised around inaccessible and non-inclusive spaces in Nigeria the Town Hall Meeting said that “Your current experiences and difficulties will soon be a thing of the past. We are developing a building code. We would not build like this again”

It was indeed another window of opportunity to bring the Disability agenda on the government front burner. We shall be engaging the building code currently being developed to make viable inputs into the document if possible.

9. Interview at the Armed Forces Radio 22nd May, 2017.

In furtherance to improving the status of Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria cum the ongoing intervention on inclusive education and accessible schools for Children with Disabilities in Nigeria, JONAPWD was invited to a live Interview session on Armed Forces Radio Station, Abuja to discuss issues, pros and cons of Inclusive Education in Nigeria.

It was another platform for creating awareness and sensitizing the public on the crux and intricacies of inclusive education, facts and figures

around inaccessible school environments and a call for action by all and sundry to assuage the situation.

It is important to note that due to the time constraints and depths of information available to share, the Presenter secured Armed Forces Radio Management's approval for another life show on Tuesday 6th or Wednesday 7th June 2017.

10. Joint National Assembly Briefing On Addressing Inequalities in Nigeria 6th June, 2017

In furtherance to promoting inclusive development for Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria within the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4) framework, JONAPWD presented a position memorandum on the provision for persons with disabilities on the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria during the Joint National Assembly SDGs Committee Briefing in tandem with the 17 SDG goals.

The Briefing brought together high-level stakeholders including policy makers, civil society leaders, the United Nations System, International development community, the academia and media amongst others to discuss the challenges posed by multi-dimensional inequalities and the roles Parliaments and other stakeholders can play in addressing them under the framework of the SDGs.

The briefing featured the presentation of briefs, memorandums, discussions and sharing of best practices, tools and strategies on the multi-dimensional nature, implications and parliamentary and policy related solutions to addressing all forms of inequalities in Nigeria.

JONAPWD's representation and presentation of memoranda was another opportunity to lucidly create awareness around non-inclusive and inaccessible school environments and a call to action.

While some committee members expressed vehemently her zest to support the cause of disability inclusion in Nigeria, other members made

commitment to revisit the Nigeria Disability Bill which currently is being harmonized by the Joint committee of the National Assembly, for Presidential assent.

11. JONAPWD's Stakeholders Meeting on the Implementation of the SDGs supported by Sightsavers 30th May, 2017

In furtherance to advancing the interest of Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria in tandem with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG4), Sightsavers identified with JONAPWD by paying a courtesy visit as well as conduct a Baseline Assessment at the JONAPWD National Project Office towards building an effective partnership in realization of SDG4.

One outcome of the meeting was a pledge by SightSavers to ensure effective partnership with JONAPWD towards engendering accessible and inclusive school environment.



Director of



JONAPWD President with Country Sightsavers Nigeria



JONAPWD Stakeholder's meeting on the SDGs supported by Sightsavers -Nigeria

JONAPWD AND SDGs- A LAND MARK TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT SGD GOAL 4

JONAPWD'S USAID-SACE SUPPORTED ADVOCACY FOR INCLUSIVE BASIC EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES PRESENTED AS KEY EVIDENCE FOR DISABILITY INCLUSION IN NIGERIA'S VOLUNTARY COUNTRY REVIEW OF SDGs



To the left is the Government Consultant on SDGs in the middle is UNDP the incountry anchor of SDGs and right is the National President of JONAPWD; during a National Consultative Review meeting with CSOs on SDGs

It is no longer news that Nigeria offered herself for voluntary review on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the year 2016 to 2017.

JONAPWD secured the support of Sight Savers to engage with the SDG review process; hence the engagement of the JONAPWD National President with the Senior Special Adviser to the President on SDGs.

According to the Nigerian SDGs Implementation Report, JONAPWD's resounding successes in its advocacy for Inclusive Basic Education for children with disabilities in the FCT-Abuja, Akwa-Ibom and Kwara state with the support of USAID-SACE programme in Nigeria was highlighted as one of Nigeria's key achievements in Nigeria's implementation of Goal-4 of the SDGs for 2016.

12. JONAPWD IN NEW YORK FOR THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS-SDGs



***Ekaete Judith Umoh;
JONAPWD National President in New York for the High Level Political Forum on the SDGs***

A-Visit to Nigerian House New York

1. Visit to Nigerian House to seek audience with His Excellency Prof. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande OFR; Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Nigerian Mission in New York. The Ambassador promised to open up more spaces though partnership and other bilateral relationship to improve the Human Rights of

Persons with disabilities in Nigeria. He promised to discuss very deeply the issues of persons with disabilities with the Nigerian government and other stakeholders at the ongoing HLPF

Photo insert below shows on the right the Ambassador, in the middle is JONAPWD President while to the left is His Excellency Samson Sunday Iteboje, Ambassador/ Deputy Permanent Representative



Below: Photo 2:

Team of Major Groups on Disability and SDGs from International Disability Alliance-IDA; African Disability Forum-ADF, Arab Disability Forum-ADF and Disability Rights funds, join JONAPWD President on Advocacy visit to Nigeria House in New York



B-JONAPWD PRESENTS AT THE CSOs Round Table- NEW YORK

JONPAWD presented the Nigeria CSOs experience in their participation in the Voluntary National Review process with a special spotlight on the participation of Persons with Disabilities.

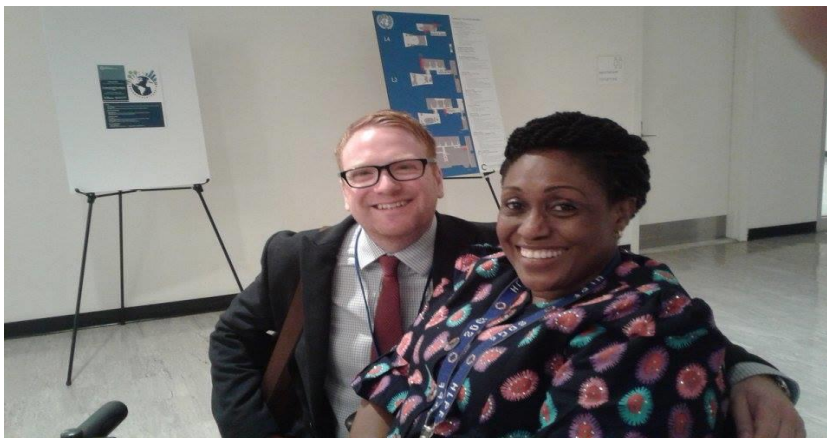


Photo insert, Ekaete Judith Umoh(JONAPWD National President) to the immediate left is Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy coordination and Inter Agency Affairs, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, who was chair of the session. Belgium, Rwanda, Slovakian, Costa-rica were some the Countries that presented. Brazil also shared country experience





JONAPWD president presents at a roundtable by Stakeholders Group on Disability organized by International Disability Alliance



JONAPWD National President with Sightsavers International UK in New York at the High Level Political Forum-July 2017

13. MAINSTREAMING PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES INTO THE ELECTORAL PROCESS-INEC ENGAGES JONAPWD AND OTHER HIGH LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS IN REVIEWING THE DRAFT FRAMEWORK ON ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION OF PWDs IN A ONE DAY CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON INEC DRAFT FRAMEWORK ON ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION OF PWDs IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESSION

The National President of JONAPWD Ekaete Judith Umoh speaking on Understanding issues of PWDs and Mainstreaming in the Electoral process, called for the removal of social, institution, physical and attitudinal barriers to enable the PWDs participate in the electoral process"

Opening Remarks by Dr. Adekunle L. Ogunmola.

"The Commission aims to ensure that disability issues are mainstreamed into electoral matters throughout the electoral phases."

"The Commission has taken a lead in an effort to come up with a framework which will ensure and encourage active and inclusive participation of persons with disabilities in the Country's electoral process"

Part of the objectives of the forum is to

- To enable the Administrative Secretaries, the implementers of the Commission policies make input through a robust engagement.*
- To ensure that the draft framework meets international best practices.....*

The Rationale for the framework is to...

- Have in place a document that guides the commission on how to support Persons with Disabilities throughout the electoral circle.*
- Strengthening of the commission as an institution that is inclusive in its human and financial resources*

- *Monitor political parties on access and participation of persons with disabilities in the electoral process.*
- *Facilitate and encourage the development of accessible electoral facilities and infrastructure including polling units, availability of trained personnel and sign language interpretation and disability friendly materials and services*
- *Establish strong partnership with relevant government ministries, Departments and agencies (MDAs) ,media, Stakeholders and CSPs to facilitate access and participation for PWDs in the electoral process*
- *Encourage the participation of PWDs in all aspect of the electoral process*

An insight into the Draft Framework on access and participation of PWDs.

Objectives to the Framework

The overall goal of this Framework is to contribute to the facilitation of access and participation of PWDs in all aspects of the electoral process.

The specific objectives and related strategies are as follows:

A). Strengthen the Commission as an institution that is inclusive in its human and financial resources.

Strategies:

i. Develop an electoral database on PWDs (including staff, voters and candidates, refer to paragraph 1 on definition of who the beneficiaries to the policy are) to guide policy development and implementation.

ii. Establish a benchmark on percentage of PWDs to be recruited as personnel of the Commission.

iii. Inclusion of specific budget heads on provisions of assistive devices in all electoral facilities including INEC offices.

- iv. Strengthen PWDs Desks at all INEC State offices with information, knowledge and resources.*
- v. Train all INEC permanent and ad hoc staff on inclusive and accessible electoral process*
- vi. Mainstream disability-inclusive practices in all aspects of INEC operations including human resources management, budget, planning, and procurements*
- vii. Mainstream disability issues into existing training and operational documents as well as Design and develop disability friendly electoral materials*
- viii. Support electoral reforms on PWDs access and participation*
- ix. Provide a safe and conducive electoral environment devoid of fear, coercion and intimidation before, during and after voting.*

Appraising the document before its adoption in Keffi, Nassarawa State, the National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee of INEC, Prince Adedeji S. Soyebi said the document was good enough right from initial stage and INEC was committed to promoting the participation of all social groups in the electoral process.

Recall that JONAPWD conducted a nationwide consultation with PWDs in using a participatory approach to produce the Draft Framework. The first input to the draft came up based on consultation with PWDs groups all over the country.

CITAD supported INEC to consult with JONAPWD to carry out this consultative activity.

The document would be presented to other critical stakeholder groups for further scrutiny before its final adoption.

14. Right to Know (R2K) One-Day Forum for State and Non-state actors on Freedom of Information (FOI) and Accountability in Public Institutions

As part of efforts by Civil society Organizations (CSOs) and some government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) to ensure transparency and accountability especially in the public sphere, a one-day dialogue was organized by “Right to Know (R2K) to better sensitize states and non-state actors on requisites of accessing information freely leveraging on the FOI Act cum sharing CSO/DPO experiences in engaging the process.

JONAPWD’s representation at the meeting was another platform to sensitize state and non-state actors on the crux of disability mainstreaming and engendering inclusive societies for persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

Outcome of the meeting includes commitment by state actors to ensuring that, henceforth, information needed by members of the general public and especially CSOs are readily available particularly on the MDAs’ designed websites. There were also commitments from MDAs to ensure that they promote the principle of “Proactive Disclosure” especially swift response to request for any information allowed under the FOI Act.

15. Press Release in Commemoration of World Population Day

As part of efforts to sensitize the public on the challenges of inclusion and mainstreaming persons with disabilities in Nigeria, and in commemoration of World Population Day slated for 11th July, JONAPWD released a press statement “advocating inclusive development for persons with disabilities in Nigeria.

The press release was aired by radio Nigeria and in some other print media outlets in Nigeria.

The release was another pedestal to sensitize the public on the crux of inclusive education in Nigeria. In tandem with her public awareness plan,

JONAPWD reach through apposite media networks stimulated action for policy change on Disability Inclusion in Nigeria.

16. UNICEF Visit JONAPWD National Secretariat seeks collaboration in mainstreaming disability in UNICEF works.



In the middle is JONAPWD president; Right is Enrique Delamonica, UNICEF Chief, Social Policy and Gender Equality and to the right is Temilade Aromolaran of UNICEF

JONAPWD was later nominated by UNICEF for Regional-Workshop on the Measurement of Child Disability, Organized by: UNICEF in collaboration with the Washington Group on Disability Statistics in Dakar, Senegal

17. UNICEF meeting on "Economic Burden of Violence against Children" 18th July, 2017

In support of the Presidential commitment and in line with the multi-sectorial nature of Child Protection System Strengthening programme, the Federal Ministry of Budgeting and National Planning, Social Development Department joined the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs

and Social Development and UNICEF Nigeria to estimate the annual GDP loss due to the economic cost of Violence against Children. The findings of the “Economic Burden of Violence against Children” was to inform the development of the child protection budgetary guidelines for Federal and State governments and serve as the basis for continued advocacy for improved allocations to the sector.

It was within this purview that JONAPWD participated in a one day initial meeting to introduce the methodology of the “Economic Burden of Violence against Children”

JONAPWD’s representation generated discuss around the crux of inclusive education. Hence, the need to consciously integrate children with disabilities in the research framework on the subject matter was established.

18. LIVE RADIO INTERVIEW ON INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN NIGERIA 31st July 2017

In our bid to constantly engage the public towards the full implementation of the inclusive and accessible Education for children with disability and also create a platform where concerns and questions will be attended to, JONAPWD featured in a radio program with a topic “INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, LETS MAKE IT WORK IN NIGERIA “ The program which created another window for direct engagement with the public did not only pave ways for educating the public about inclusive education but also highlighted the efforts of JONAPWD with support from SACE-USAID to ensure all children have good and quality Education in respective of disability or other social vices in Nigeria.

19. 4th UN-CRPD 2018 Conference Committee Meeting 8th August, 2017

As part of preparations for the successful hosting of United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) 2018

Conference in Nigeria, JONAPWD, was represented at the Committee meeting and planning processes.

The conference was to ensure that Nigeria submits her long overdue initial report on her status in the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in the country across the various sectors of the economy.

The principal outcome of the planning meeting and result of the conference was a socio-economic cum political system in the country that caters for the needs of all Nigerians including persons with disabilities across different sectors of the economy. Having a domesticated international convention will further assist to deepen disability inclusion in Nigeria.

20. JONAPWD AT THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL MIRROR COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & RELATED SERVICES HELD ON 18th AUGUST, 2017 AT NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HOSPITALITY AND TOURISM (NIHOTOUR), Abuja, Nigeria

The National Mirror Technical Committee on Tourism and Related Services, was set up to review tourism and related activities, draft documents from the ECOWAS, ARSO, and ISO in order to articulate Nigeria's position on the subject matter. Through the work of the committee, the Nigerian tourism sector will be repositioned to compete globally using standardization and quality assurance to attract foreign direct investments, tourists and look beyond the one million tourists target that was briefly achieved in 2011. Beyond reviewing tourism and related activities, the Committee is to initiate other indigenous tourist activities and tourism products for regional and global standardization using the approved standardization process in SON.



...JONAPWD's National President, Ms Ekaete Umoh, Dr Adebayo Adebukola and a cross section of participants during the meeting

In its determination to create a working document for regulation and standardization of hospitality business in Nigeria, the Standards Organisation of Nigeria (SON) through its National Mirror Committee (NMC) on Tourism and related activities, held an executive council meeting on the 18th August 2017, principally to welcome persons with disabilities into the National Mirror Committee, introduction of persons with disabilities into the NMC various standardization activities and brief presentation on the on-going ISO standard project by ISO/TC 228 WG 14 project on Accessible Tourism.

The JONAPWD's National President, Ms Ekaete Umoh, was in attendance at the meeting. Highpoints was the introduction and extrapolation of the NMC focus and core objectives while officially integrating JONAPWD into the NMC.

Outcome: JONAPWD integrated into the NMC. JONAPWD signed up to engage the process for the effectual integration of persons with

disabilities in Nigeria in facility standardization, accessibility and inclusion.



Launch of Children with Disabilities Program (Child find, Intervention and Integration Program) by Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy 10th August, 2017

Pediatrics Specialty Group (PSG) of the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy (NSP) has developed a framework called “Child Find, Intervention and Integration Program (CIIP) from World Health Organization - International Classification of Functioning, children and youth (0-18years) and adapted it to Nigeria socio-cultural context.

This is practical structure from PSG wing of NSP for continuum access to health and social care , meant to address the problems of Nigerian families who have children with disabilities. The structure offers early detection and counseling to families who have children with disabilities

and specific steps to be taken regarding the care of their children with disabilities.

The major outcome of the meeting is JONAPWD lending its voice to the success of the CIIP program and a call for proper consultation with persons with disabilities who will be the end users and beneficiaries of the program for inclusivity as well as the need for appropriate and comprehensive partnership with JONAPWD towards the success of the program

21. Actionaid Validation Workshop 21th August, 2017

JONAPWD was invited to participate in the process to validate the outcome of ActionAid study on Intersectionality, Disability and Gender. The objectives of the research was to gather evidence for Actionaid Nigeria, partners (including JONAPWD), rights holders and PWDs on opportunities and challenges to strengthen programming around disability applying a feminist lens, in particular women and youth with disabilities.

The Actionaid validation workshop presented JONAPWD with another opportunity to evaluate the research work of the consultant, add value to the content of the study, to ensure that it is concretely in line with realities and particularities of PWDs in Nigeria, especially women, girls and youth.

22. AAFP National Health Dialogue 23rd - 25th August, 2017

As part of efforts to ensure successful implementation of National Health Policy and also ensure the achievement of universal health coverage for all and sundry in Nigeria, the Premium Times Centre for Investigative Journalism in collaboration with Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACFaH) and Project PINK BLUE organized a three days National Health Dialogue to succinctly engage the process. JONAPWD was actively represented.

The Dialogue aimed to create awareness on the barriers to actualizing Universal Health Coverage; to learn lessons from the PACFaH Project's

advocacy for Health Policy change; and to map out an Advocacy Action Plan (AAP) towards actualizing Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria.

During the dialogue, JONAPWD made comprehensive case for the need to ensure unhindered access to medical and health services for persons with disabilities in Nigeria. This includes removal of institutional barriers to access medical and health services especially by PWDs in Nigeria.

23. UN-CRPD 2018 Conference Planning Meeting 14th September, 2017

Sequel to prior meetings held on the Promotion of UN-CRPD domestication in Nigeria, a meeting with the Honourable Minister, Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWASD) held with a view of planning for the UN-CRPD 2018 Conference.

The meeting had in attendance representatives from the FMWASD including the Hon. Minister FMWASD, Hajia Alhassan Jumai, represented by The Permanent Secretary FMWASD.

The meeting was geared towards a two-day event towards promoting the domestication of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria with a view to the preparation of Nigeria's initial report on its implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for submission to the committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Issues pertaining to setting up a committee to write Nigeria's UN-CRPD initial report and planning/preparations towards the conference in 2018 were discussed.

The Permanent Secretary on behalf of the Ministry pledged her support and the ministry's support towards the UN-CRPD Conference and its activities.

The effectual domestication of the UNCRPD in Nigeria shall be an elixir for the effective implementation of the Inclusive Education Policy in National and at state levels.

24. Commemoration of International day of Persons with Disabilities 4th December 2017

In a bid to recognize and integrate Persons with Disabilities in the society, and change negative perception on issues concerning disability and inclusion, JONAPWD joined the rest of the world to celebrate the international day of Persons with Disabilities. The Theme for IDPD 2017 is: Transformation towards sustainable and resilient society for all

The observance of the Day was aimed towards promoting an understanding of disability issues and mobilizing support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also sought to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life and change negative perception of both State Actors, Non-state actors, Media and the society on issues concerning disability and inclusion. This is in line with the SDG's Goal 4, 8, 10, 11 and 17 where Disability is referenced in various parts of the SDGs and specifically in parts related to education, growth and employment, inequality, accessibility of human settlements, as well as data collection and monitoring of the SDGs,

To this end a press briefing was conducted to adequately address these concerns and raise awareness for all stakeholders.

25. ROUND TABLE ON EXPLORING A LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE HUMAN RIGHT TREATY AND THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITY IN NIGERIA, ISSUES AND CHALLENGES 11TH OF DECEMBER 2017 WITH SUPPORT BY SIGHTSAVERS.

As part of JONAPWD effort to ensure that Persons with Disability enjoy all their rights and also to promote the course of PWDs, it organized a round table on "Exploring a Legal Framework in the Human Rights Treaty and the Rights of Persons with disability in Nigeria, Issues and Challenges."

This meeting was geared towards looking at the issues and challenges that affect PWDs especially towards the assent to the Disability Bill in Nigeria by the Federal Government of Nigeria and the way forward.

The meeting which was supported by **SightSavers** had over 40 participants representing the various cluster of disabilities and members of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities-JONAPWD of in the FCT and some other states including a member of the Board of JONAPWD. Also in attendance representatives of electronic and print media.

The roundtable identified the following as way forward and strategies to drive the disability issues to the next level:

- Analyze the political structure of the present government and also identify key political persons that will help reach out to the Government officials that will and can handle disability issues
- Identify key religious leaders that will drive the disability issues to the next level
- All cluster members, development partners and other stakeholders should form a strong structure to move these issues forward
- A joint committee of all associations should be picked and should discuss with Senator Osita Izunaso to request for a meeting with the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This will be an avenue for the President to listen to the plights of the PWDs.
- Pay advocacy visit to key traditional rulers and key religious leaders to talk with the Senate President and the President of Nigeria by JONAPWD cluster members
- The need to be more creative and strategic in our advocacy drive/style on disability issues
- Students with disabilities should be involved and not be left out in the discussions
- The need to implement the outcomes is very important so that it won't remain just in the paper

- To go to the National Assembly to find out the state of the disability bill
- To involve CSOs and other key stakeholders to take this issues forward
- To remember and also involve the PWDs in the rural areas
- To plan for strategic resources for the plan of Actions. Resources are key in achieving this outcomes



Cross section of participants.



...JONAPWD

president in a media chat...

26. A One Day Round Table Meeting of Parents of Children with Disability 11th December 2017

Working to harmonize and strengthen corroborative efforts in addressing and mainstreaming inclusion in Nigeria, parents of children with disabilities under JONAPWD came together to create a platform for strengthening parents and care givers as it relates to disability issue. The meeting also mapped out strategies to engage stakeholders both state and non-state actors on strengthening strategic goals to achieve a global sustained success in the mainstreaming of disability issues.

Highpoints of the meeting was when Mrs Rasheedat Okoduwa shared her experience with raising her auditory impaired daughter and the harvesting of the lessons learned from her story which cuts across the whole challenges faced by parents of children with disabilities.

Board of Chemonics International Visits JONAPWD- The SACE Project is implemented By Chemonic has JONAPWD as its Partner but Funded by USAID.

The USAID SACE chief of Party Charles Abani, led the Board of Chemonics on a working visit to JONAPWD. A presentation was made on the ongoing Inclusive Education Project to the Board. It was indeed a very fruitful meeting as the outcome was the approval of JONAPWD request of an accessible office space. JONAPWD project office has since move to an accessible building at CITEC Estate Mbora District, Abuja.

Our collective thanks to Chemonics and to USAID for the opportunity to be a grantee of the USAID/SACE Project.



JONAPWD president present profile of JONAPWD to the Chairman of the Board of Chemonics.

Senior Special Assistant to President Mohammed Buhari; Dr. Samuel Ankali paid an Advocacy Visit to the National President of JONAPWD at JONAPWD National Secretariat, assured the community of Persons with Disability in Nigeria of



Ekaete Judith Umoh, president the result of baseline survey by JONAPWD on education of children with disabilities a SACE project supported by /UASID

Nigeria National Association of the Deaf (NNAD) Paid an Advocacy visit to JONAPWD Secretariat.

The President of NNAD led his Executive on an advocacy visit to JONAPWD National Secretariat. The association, pledged their support to the current administration and sought more involvement of the Deaf community in JONAPWD projects and programmes.



JONAPWD GOMBE STATE CHAIRMAN, HON. UMAR ALI GORO PAYS ADVOCACY VISIT TO JONAPWD NATIONAL SECRETARIAT, FCT-ABUJA.

The JONAPWD State Chairman, Gombe State, Hon. Umar Ali Goro, elected Councillor, Balanga LGA, Gombe State paid an advocacy visit to the JONAPWD National President, Ekaete Umoh at the JONAPWD National Secretariat.

In his speech, he pledged solidarity and to work closely with the JONAPWD National Secretariat. With a zeal and passion for his community, he has initiated a Non-Governmental Organization 'Hope

Foundation for the Disabled' which shall be inaugurated in the near future.

Consequently, JONAPWD National President, Ms. Ekaete Umoh expressed joy in the giant strides he has taken so far in pursuing the course of Persons with Disabilities and pledged her support to the State Chairman for his unrelenting zest, courage and commitment toward ensuring the a better life and well being for Persons with Disabilities.

As part of the States' success stories, the Gombe State Chapter has applied for a concession in employment with the Federal Civil Service for some of her members, which has always been done in the past.

The National President, who was pleased with these outstanding strides of the State, commended the efforts of the State Chapter and re-affirmed her support to the State and the State Chair.



Ms. Ekaete Umoh, JONAPWD National President expressing her pleasure with Gombe State Chairman, looking on is the Women leader of JONAPWD Gombe chapter



JONAPWD EXCHANGE STUDY PROGRAM TO THE UK ON POLITICAL INCLUSION OF PERSON'S WITH DISABILITY WITH SUPPORT FROM WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY .

In tandem with article 29 of the CRPD and the 10th Goal of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), being a Global response to increase participation of persons with disabilities in politics and public life and to reduce inequality within and among countries by empowering and promoting the social, economic and political inclusion of all, including persons with disabilities, JONAPWD, therefore partnered with WEST MINISTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY in an Exchanged Study program to London United Kingdom to understudy Political Inclusion and it's relevant to Democratic Development of the society.

With full sponsorship from The Westminster Foundation for Democracy, JONAPWD nominated Miss Apolmida Haruna, a lawyer with a disability for the exchanged programme to explore more opportunities to learn how best to engage stakeholders in providing and ensuring that the components of Political and social inclusion to all development Practices as it relates to Disability , to bridge the knowledge gap, initiate ways around sustaining partnership and the effective implementation of article 29 of the CRPD and SDGs as it relate to Goal 10.



Far right is JONAPWD's nominee (Miss Apolmida and to the far left is Nigeria Country rep. West Minister Foundation Mr. Adebowale)



Apolmida (JONAPWD's nominee) and her colleagues from other countries in London

THE FOLLOWING WERE SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE VISIT:

- Student participation in politics needs to be encouraged in Nigeria by providing incentives to promote their participation.
- JONAPWD needs to train the youths with disabilities in the act of lobbying and find a way of penetrating youth movements in Nigeria.
- The capacity of young legislators in Nigeria needs to be built. Most young people in Nigeria want to participate in politics and governing process but they lack the capacity.

- Liaise with other organizations to advocate for accessibility of all physical infrastructures in Nigeria and also advocate for attitudinal change towards Persons with Disabilities in Nigeria.
- Advocate for provision of Day care units for Persons with Disabilities in prisons and also provision of accessible information for Persons with Disabilities.
- National Assembly should be the best example for accessibility in Nigeria

PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVE ON RECRUITMENT OF INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS WITH DISABILITY

Given the range of barriers disabled people trying to join the workforce face daily in Nigeria from lack of careers support, knowledge content and inaccessible transport system, the National President on Her Assumption of office produced a road map to recruit interns to work with JONAPWD to gain experience.

The Internship for Persons with Disabilities in JONAPWD provides persons with disabilities with 6 months' work experience opportunities, professional development and networks to support them in competing on future vacancies, either within government or with other organizations.

Internships can serve as fundamental skill-building tools by which graduates with disabilities can obtain the critical career development and decision-making competencies needed to compete in an increasingly competitive job market

A pan-disability approach (Teams comprised of individuals with differing impairments, working together, regardless of the limitations in view) has been adopted for this program, so individuals with all kinds of disabilities are eligible. The program is open to all persons with disabilities with qualifications ranging from Ordinary Diploma holders to University graduates; placement would be made according to qualifications.

A BRIEF PROFILE OF JONAPWD TWO INTERNS SO FAR

Musa Muazu Musa- October 2016-November 2017 (JONAPWD's first intern)



Musa holds a National Diploma in Accounting from the NACABS Polytechnic Akwanga.

Boniface Ogbanje - August 2017-February 2018



He holds a degree in Accounting (B.Sc.) from the Benue State University (BSU) and hails from Benue state, Nigeria.

Musa Muazu Musa and Boniface Ogbanje, recruited in 2016 and 2017 had since moved on with increased knowledge/capacity on disability and development.

JONAPWD RE-PACKAGED! MOVED INTO AN ACCESSIBLE OFFICE SPACE

Following the visit of CHEMONICS's Board to JONAPWD's National Secretariat, there was an approval for JONAPWD to have a more accessible office space. JONAPWD therefore moved to acquire an accessible office located at House 23, A Crescent, CITEC Estate, Mbor, FCT. The National Secretariat of JONAPWD which still remains at the National Centre for Women Development is currently being shared with the JONAPWD FCT Chapter.

Our collective thanks to USAID, the Board of CHEMONICS and the entire SACE project Team; our new environment has given us better corporate image for disability inclusion.

Recall, JONAPWD's National Secretariat for over 10 years has been on the first floor of a building without an elevator /lift, for which we are extremely grateful to the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and the DG Women's Center for the allocation of the space free of charge, this actually helped JONAPWD National Secretariat to stabilize over the years and still going.

3. Conclusion

Despite the challenges and issues that slowed JONAPWD pace in actualizing some its 2017 priorities and taking into consideration that the SACE Project is winding up in 2018, we are strongly committed to continually contribute our quota distinctively to the advancement of the cause of persons with disabilities in Nigeria. Our priority steps for 2018 shall include but not limited to:

- Identifying new and emerging areas in delivering interventions for persons with disability

- Continuity and progress on all on-going projects: Advocacy for the Enactment of the Nigerians with Disabilities Law; Advocacy for Inclusive and Accessible Basic Education for Children with Disabilities; Advocacy for Inclusive and Accessible Electoral Process for Persons with Disabilities, improved visibility for women and girls with disabilities in all gender and development programmes in Nigeria.
- Urgently refurbishing and equipping of the Project Office to enable speedy delivery on work schedule and interventions.
- State level capacity building for Stakeholders in the Disability Community
- Inclusive Education Technical Meeting in focal States
- FCT and Akwaibom State Stakeholders' Multilogue on Inclusive Education Policy.

PHOTO GALLERY:



JONAPWD Board

meeting in 2016



From left to right) SACE chief of Party, Charles Abani, Head USAID Mission in Nigeria, CSO representative for USAID-Mrs Augusta Akparata, JONAPWD National President-Ekaete Judith Umoh, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Disability Matters-Dr, Samuel Ankali during the engagement of the para-olympians and Disability Bill.



Mr. Ujah ; the JONAPWD FCT Chairman expressing an opinion during the engagement with Nigerian Para-Olympians Medalists on the urgent need to pass into Law the Disability Bill.



In a group photo with the para-Olympians Medalist; is Nigeria USAID Mission Director, Chief of Party SACE Project, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Disability Matter and National President- JONAPWD amongst others during a consultative meeting with the para-Olympians on the passage of the Disability Bill into Law.